

Applicants' representative would like to thank Examiner Burch for the courtesies extended during the interview on May 29, 2007. During the interview, the first and second flow paths were discussed. The second flow path between the lower working chamber and the reserve chamber through passage 132 and valve assembly 22; the 112 first rejection and the drawing objection were discussed.

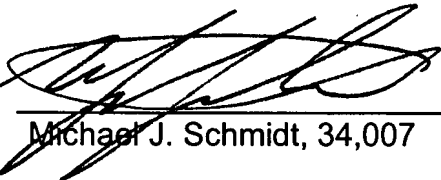
During a compression stroke, check valve 42 closes passages 40 but does not close passage 132. As defined on page 5, paragraph [0015], "A one-way check valve 42 allows fluid flow from reserve chamber 38 to lower working chamber 26 through passages 40 but prohibits fluid flow from lower working chamber 26 to reserve chamber 38." Passages 40 extend between lower working chamber 26 and reserve chamber 38 and passage 132 extends between lower working chamber 26 and lower intermediate chamber 54. As defined on page 12, paragraph [0027], "During the compression stroke, check valve 42 in base assembly 20 is closed preventing fluid flow between lower working chamber 26 and reserve chamber 38. Fluid is forced through a passage 132 formed in base valve assembly 20. The fluid enters lower intermediate chamber 54..."

Thus, Applicants believe the second flow path which includes a second variable orifice for controlling flow from said lower working chamber to said reserve chamber is supported by the original specification and it includes lower working chamber 26, passage 132, intermediate chamber 54, valve assembly 22 and reserve chamber 38. Check valve 42 closes passages 40 only and it does not close passage 132. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the 112 first rejection and the drawing objection.

If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: May 30, 2007

By:   
Michael J. Schmidt, 34,007

HARNESS, DICKEY & PIERCE, P.L.C.  
P.O. Box 828  
Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48303  
(248) 641-1600

MJS/pmg